

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-7 and 15 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-5, 7 and 15 have been amended. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1-7 and 15 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the informalities identified by the Examiner. In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that all of the claims of the present application should be allowed.

Specification

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's identification of potential informalities with the specification. In accordance with MPEP §608.01(q), Applicants herewith submit a substitute specification in the above-identified application. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification that shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted. Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the

same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Since the number of amendments that are being made to the original specification would render it difficult to consider the case, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, Applicants have voluntarily submitted this substitute specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the substitute specification be entered into the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's assistance in identifying potential informalities with the claims. Specifically, claims 3 and 4 have been rejected due to the presence of potential informalities with the claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention.

Specifically, amended claims 3 and 4 clearly state that "a pulling-off speed" is described as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the

application, Applicants have incorporated the changes recommended by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the requested changes do not appear to either raise a substantial question of the patentability of the claimed invention nor do they narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

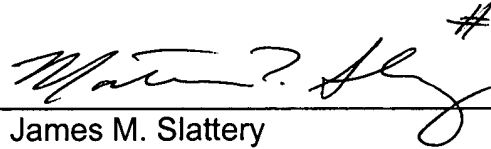
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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